



MARTIN O'MALLEY, Governor
ANTHONY G. BROWN, Lt. Governor
THOMAS E. PEREZ, Secretary

Governor's Workforce Investment Board
Eric M. Seleznow, Executive Director

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April 9, 2009

Martin O'Malley, Governor
State of Maryland
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 will provide Maryland's public workforce system with an unprecedented level of workforce development funding. Maryland will gain almost \$35 million in additional Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser Act (WP) funds to assist workers in retooling their skills and re-establishing themselves in viable jobs, with career paths. As Maryland's chief policy making body for workforce development, the Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB) is pleased to submit the attached policy framework to guide Maryland's implementation of ARRA's workforce priorities.

GWIB's ARRA guidance flows from broad guidance recently issued by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). This guidance provides a framework and set of recommendations to ensure that the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Division of Workforce Development (DLLR DWD), local workforce investment boards (LWIBs), and other state agencies and workforce partners, are successful in meeting the goals of Recovery Act – transparency and accountability, timely spending of Recovery Act funds and implementation of activities, increasing workforce system capacity and service levels, and using data and workforce information to guide strategic planning and service delivery. It should be noted that the proposed guidance and recommendations are not intended to serve as an all encompassing set of policy directives to cover every section of the Act, but rather as a policy guide identifying priorities for GWIB's vision for Maryland's workforce activities as they relate to economic recovery plans.

Much of this guidance was inspired by your vision for workforce creation and increasing the skills of Maryland's workforce and also aligns with your goal of building a robust green economy and preparing a workforce for new green jobs. Further, the GWIB views the use of these one-time ARRA funds as an opportunity to considerably increase participation in post-secondary education, training and apprenticeships, propel a significant number of our citizens forward with the education and skills needed to compete in the national and global economy. Our policy guidance encourages returning workers to jobs, an increased investment in training, education and "up-skilling," providing access to newly created jobs, and increasing training partnerships with business and industry.



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As discussed during the March 11, 2009, GWIB Quarterly Board Meeting, the guidance was presented to, reviewed, and approved by the GWIB Executive Committee, and subsequently shared with the entire Board for review, comment and approval. To that end, the policy guidance reflects the voice of the Board as it seeks to provide comprehensive recommendations to DLLR, local workforce investment boards and other partners, as they begin providing services to Maryland's citizens as a result of the infusion of Recovery Act funds.

We hope you find these recommendations helpful in addressing Maryland's economic recovery needs. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact GWIB directly.

Sincerely,



William G. "Bill" Robertson
Chair, Governor's Workforce Investment Board
President and CEO, Adventist HealthCare, Inc.



Eric M. Seleznow
Executive Director
Governor's Workforce Investment Board

enclosure

CC: Secretary Thomas Perez, MD Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Assistant Secretary Andrew Moser, MD Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Governor's Workforce Investment Board Members
All Local Workforce Investment Board Chairs
All Local Workforce Investment Board Directors